R U T H.

A

SACRED ORATORIO.

L O N D O N:
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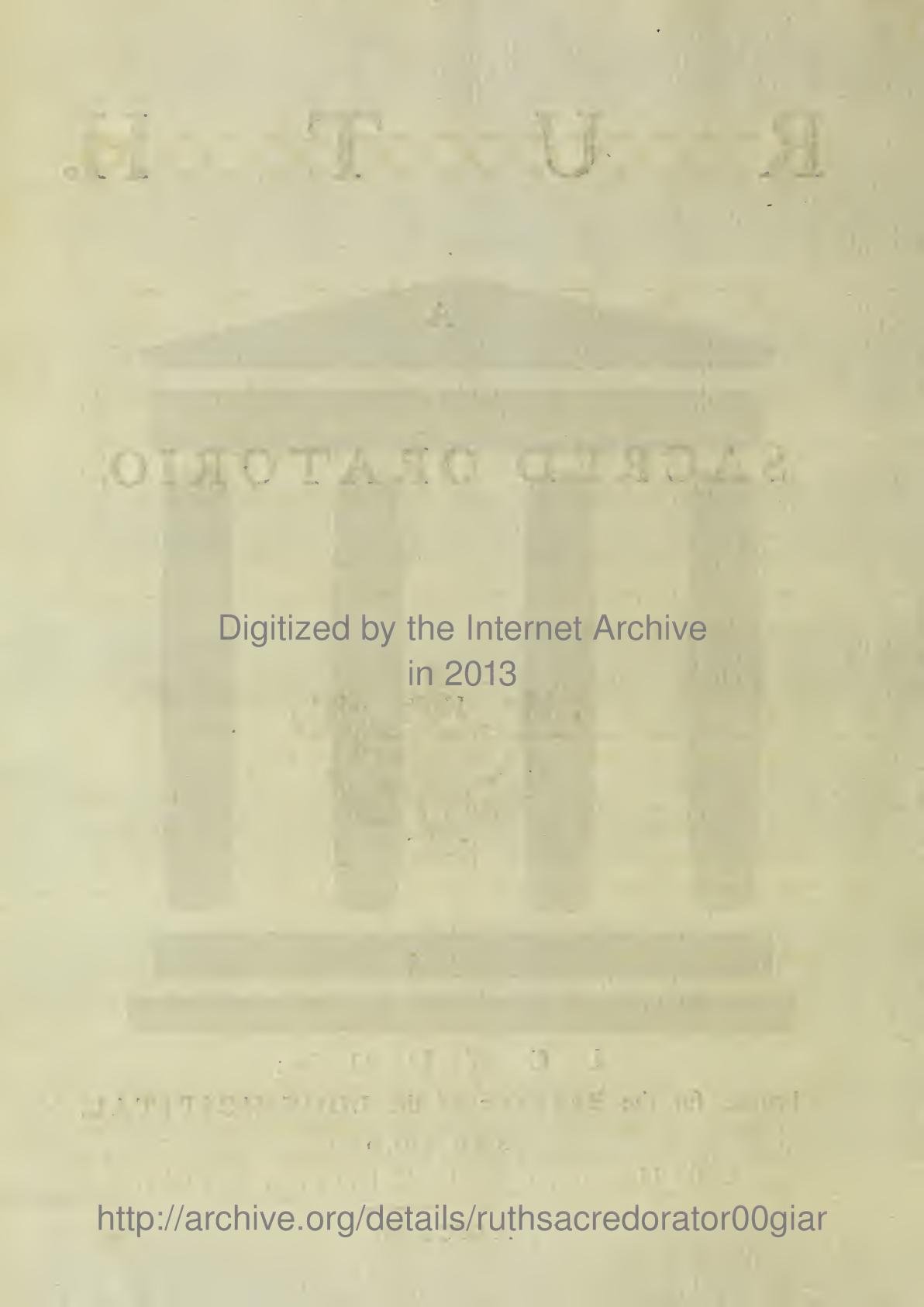
At the HOSPITAL, and by E. DILLY in the *Poultry*.

M DCC LXIII.



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Tr. R.
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ARGUMENT.

ELIMELECH, *a Man of* BETHLEHEM-JUDAH, *left his Home by reaſon of a Famine, and with his Wife* NAOMI, *and his two Sons* MAHLON *and* CHILION, *came into the Land of* MOAB *to find Subſiſtence. Here* ELIMELECH *died, leaving* NAOMI *his Widow and his two Sons.*

MAHLON *and* CHILION *married two* MOABITISH *Women; the Name of the one was* ORPAH, *the other* RUTH, *whoſe Hiſtory is the chief Subject of the Book which bears her Name.*

After ſome Years MAHLON *and* CHILION *died, and* NAOMI *hearing that Plenty was again reſtored to the Land of* ISRAEL, *determines to leave* MOAB *and return home: This ſhe mentions to her Daughters-in-law; one of which,* ORPAH, *after having accompanied her part of the Way, turns back to the Country and Idol-gods of* MOAB. *But* RUTH, *having become a true Convert to the* GOD OF ISRAEL, *determines to cleave to Him, therefore leaves* MOAB *and accompanies* NAOMI *home.*

Upon NAOMI's *Arrival at* BETHLEHEM, *the People of the City were ſurpriſed at the Poverty and Wretchedneſs of her Appearance, which is repreſented in the moſt affecting Terms,* RUTH Chap. i. 19, 20, 21.

RUTH, *in order to ſupport herſelf and* NAOMI, *propoſes going to glean in the Harveſt-field with the other poor People, and happens to go into a Part of a Field belonging to* BOAZ, *a Man of great Wealth and of the Kindred of* ELIMELECH, NAOMI's *late Huſband.*

BOAZ *seeing* RUTH, *inquires who she is, and hearing that she was the Damsel that accompanied* NAOMI *out of the Land of* MOAB, *shews her particular Kindness, and orders all his People to do the same. The Reason of which was, the heroic Piety* RUTH *had shewn in leaving her Country, her Gods and her Kindred, that she might improve her unfeigned Attachment to the Worship of the true* GOD, *and exert her filial Duty to poor distressed* NAOMI.

RUTH, *on her Return home to* NAOMI *in the Evening, recounts the Transactions of the Day, and, amongst the rest, what had passed between her and* BOAZ.

Encouraged by what RUTH *related,* NAOMI *instructs* RUTH *to ask of* BOAZ *the Kinsman's Part, which, by the Law of* ISRAEL, *was for the next surviving Kinsman to marry the Widow, and possess the Land of him who had died, and had left no Children to inherit his Patrimony: That the Issue of such Marriage might keep up the Name and Family of the Deceased, and have the Land as Heirs to the first Possessor; that so, as the Expression was,* His Name might not be put out of ISRAEL. BOAZ, *on the Mention of it, is pleased with the Proposal, but says,* "There is "a Kinsman nearer than I, but if he will not do the Part of a "Kinsman to thee, then I will."

BOAZ *goes the next Day to the Gate of the City, and calls upon the next Kinsman to marry* RUTH, *and to redeem the Land of her late Husband; but he, having a Wife and Children of his own, refuses: Upon which,* BOAZ, *having the Kinsman's Right devolved upon him, marries* RUTH, *redeems the Land, and thus becomes one of the Progenitors of the* REDEEMER OF ISRAEL; *for by* RUTH *he had* OBED, *the Father of* JESSE, *the Father of* DAVID, *of whom in the Fulness of Time* CHRIST *came.*

The

The Design of this Book is, (1.) *To lead to Providence, to shew us how conversant it is about our private Concerns, and to teach us in them all to have an Eye to it, acknowledging* GOD *in all our Ways, and in all Events that are concerning us. See* 1 Sam. ii. 7, 8. Psalm cxiii. 7, 8, 9. (2.) *To lead to* CHRIST, *who descended from* RUTH, *Part of whose Genealogy concludes this Book, from whence it is fetched into* Matt. i. *And in the Conversion of* RUTH *the* MOABITESS, *and the bringing of her into the Pedigree of the* MESSIAH, *we have a Type of the Calling of the* GENTILES *in due Time into the Fellowship of* CHRIST JESUS *our* LORD. *The Afflictions of* NAOMI *and* RUTH *we have an Account of* Chap. i. *Instances of their Industry and Humility,* Chap. ii. *The bringing them into Alliance with* BOAZ, Chap. iii. *and their happy Settlement thereby,* Chap. iv. *And let us remember the Scene is laid in* BETHLEHEM, *the City where our* REDEEMER *was born.*

PERSONS.

PERSONS.

BOAZ,
PROPHET,
ASAPH,
RUTH'S KINSMAN,
REAPERS,
PRIESTS and PEOPLE of ISRAEL and MOAB.

RUTH,
NAOMI,
ORPAH,
ISRAELITISH WOMEN,
MOABITISH WOMEN.

RUTH.

A

SACRED ORATORIO.

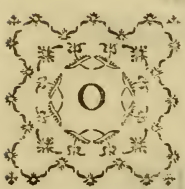
PART I.

SCENE I.

NAOMI, RUTH *and* ORPAH *in the Fields between* MOAB *and* BETHLEHEM.

RECITATIVE.

NAOMI.



'ER MAHLON's Tomb, and CHILION's ſtill I mourn,
Each Day renews my Griefs, while here I ſtay.
To long-left SHILOH's Tents I will return,
My Sorrows ſooth, and at the Altar pray.
On you, my Daughters, may the LORD beſtow
The beſt of Bleſſings from his Throne above:
Believe, where'er I am whilſt here below,
Still RUTH and ORPAH ſhare my tend'reſt Love.

AIR.

AIR.

RUTH. Heaven forbid that I ſhould leave thee!
One with thine hath been my Heart.
Nothing ſhall of thee bereave me,
I will be where'er thou art.

2.

If in MOAB's Land thou mourneſt,
Here with thee will I abide:
If to JUDAH thou returneſt,
RUTH ſhall never quit thy Side.

RECITATIVE.

ORPAH. As ſtruggling Winds upon the Ocean blow,
And toſs the troubled Billows to and fro,
Within diſtracted now theſe Storms I prove,
'Twixt filial Duty and my Country's Love.
A Mother's Loſs: O! how ſhall I ſuſtain?
How ſhall I bear to leave this ancient Fane?
My Gods, my People here, how can I go?
But can I ſay, Adieu!—It muſt be ſo. [*Exit.*

SCENE II.

Prieſts and People ſacrificing to CHEMOSH, *the* GOD *of the* MOABITES.

RECITATIVE.

PRIEST. How great is CHEMOSH! chief of Gods ador'd!
Worthy our loftieſt Praiſe! Thy Name o'erawes
The Nations round. The circumciſed Race
Of JEWRY trembles: And by thee ſuſtain'd,
In Liberty the free-born Sons of MOAB
Exulting glory. High to thee we raiſe
The flowing Bowl, whilſt Hecatombs ſurround
Thine Altars, and the dulcet Sounds of Lute and Harp
Proclaim our Joys; and in the myſtic Dance
We celebrate thy Praiſes, mighty Lord!

AIR.

AIR.

Thou God of War,
With ebon Car,
Brandiſh thy maſſy Spear!
CHEMOSH ariſe!
Thy Peoples Cries
In Mercy gracious hear!
Beneath thy Feet tread ev'ry Foe,
And lay each haughty Helmet low!

CHORUS.

Bring the ſhrill Clarion, high your Voices raiſe,
And bid the echoing Hills reſound his Praiſe.

RECITATIVE.

1 MOAB. WOM. Why from theſe ſacred Rites to Day
Do fair NAOMI's Daughters ſtay?

RECITATIVE *accompanied.*

2 WOMAN. At early Dawn in yonder verdant Field,
NAOMI, RUTH and ORPAH I beheld;
I at a Diſtance kept.
Their deep Diſtreſs, ſad Looks, a Parting ſeem'd to tell;
They kiſs'd, they wept,
The Tears ran trickling down their Cheeks, and mingled as they fell.

RECITATIVE.

ORPAH. Late I return to join your Songs,
And render Praiſe where Praiſe belongs.

DUET.

A MOAB. MAN & WOM. ORPAH, thou art faithful found;
ORPAH let the Roof reſound!
Welcome, Daughter, to thine own;
Welcome, ORPAH, tho' alone:
Faithleſs RUTH her Gods forſakes,
Gods unknown for CHEMOSH takes.
ORPAH joins her Peoples Songs:
CHEMOSH! Praiſe to thee belongs.

SCENE III.

NAOMI *and* RUTH *on their Way to* JUDAH.

RECITATIVE.

NAOMI. Thy Siſter's gone; return, I pray,
Why wilt thou with NAOMI ſtay?
Unhappy me! no Sons remain,
Whom thou ſhouldſt Huſband call again.
Return, dear RUTH! A better Reſt,
With ſome brave Son of MOAB bleſt,
Awaits thee there; nor wiſh to ſhare
A Widow's Toils, a Widow's Care.

RUTH. Refuſe me not, fixt is my Heart,
It cannot from NAOMI part.
Gladly with thee I wiſh to ſhare
A Widow's Toils, a Widow's Care.
All MOAB offers I reſign;
Thy People and thy GOD are mine.
Preſs me no more, reſolv'd am I,
With thee to live, with thee to die.

AIR.

AIR.

NAOMI *prophetically ſings.*

Filial Gratitude and Love,
High JEHOVAH muſt approve.
Bleſſings on thy Steps attend,
Whilſt thy Feet to JUDAH bend!
Come, my Partner in the Way,
Give our Sorrows to the Wind:
Amply He can ſoon repay
What for Him we leave behind.
GOD to pleaſe who all Things leave,
Here an hundred-fold receive.

SCENE IV.

JEWISH *Prieſts and People offering the Firſt-fruits of the Harveſt.*

RECITATIVE.

PRIEST. Look down propitious from thy Throne, Moſt High!
Accept the grateful Tribute which we bring
Before thy Sanctuary! Here we wave
This hallow'd Sheaf. Theſe are thy Gifts, O GOD!
Thou, thou alone, art worthy to be prais'd!
What Name like thine in Heaven's high Courts is heard!
What Name among Earth's mightieſt Sons with thine to be compar'd!

CHORUS.

The LORD JEHOVAH is our Strength and Song;
To him eternal Praiſe and Thanks belong.

RECITATIVE.

1 ISR. WOMAN. See from yonder Hill deſcending,
Arm in Arm, a loving Pair,
Hitherward their Footſteps bending,
Come with us our Joys to ſhare.

Second WOMAN. And can it be? What Change is here!
Is this NAOMI, once ſo fair?

NAOMI. Ceaſe, Daughters, ceaſe, no more repeat the Name;
Beauty's fair Flower is faded. Deep with Tears
(As Hillocks waſted with inceſſant Showers)
This Face now furrow'd hath forgot to tell
NAOMI's * Form. More ſuited to my State,
Henceforward call me MARAH †. I departed,
My Cup with Bleſſings crown'd: But, mournful Change!
Return a childleſs Widow— [*a Pauſe.*] He forbids
My Murm'ring who permits my Tears. He gave,
And He hath taken away. Bleſt be his Name!

AIR.

1 WOMAN of ISRAEL. "Wipe away theſe briny Tears,
"Ceaſe thy Sorrows, quit thy Fears."
He that wounded ſoon can heal;
He corrects but for our Weal:
In Affliction's Furnace try'd,
Still with patient Hope abide.
Then, as pureſt Gold refin'd,
Soon thou'lt leave the Droſs behind.

SCENE V.

RUTH *profeſſes her Change of Religion.*

RECITATIVE.

RUTH. JEHOVAH, ISRAEL'S GOD, for mine I own,
And hither come to fall before his Throne.
Tho' other Gods I've ſerv'd, theſe Knees ſhall bow
No more to Idols. Hear the ſolemn Vow!
Pardon, O LORD, the paſt, incline my Heart
To ſerve Thee now, and ne'er from Thee depart!

RECI-

* Signifies *beautiful.* † Signifies *bitter.*

RECITATIVE.

PRIEST. Whene'er a Sinner turns, Heaven's Courts around,
Seraphic Lyres and Songs of Praiſe reſound.

CHORUS.

We'll join their Songs, to Heav'n lift up our Voice;
Rejoice, a Sinner turns, again rejoice.

RECITATIVE.

PROPHET. Sudden I feel the mighty Influence
Of that prophetic Spirit which reveals
Deep Things of GOD; and from the Womb of Time
Opens to View the hidden Myſteries.
Hear what the LORD hath ſpoken, and believe.

AIR.

Hail, Daughter! hail! a feſtal Band
Welcomes thy Steps to JUDAH's Land;
Bleſt be the happy Day!
Since here to ſeek the GOD of Truth,
From Idols turn'd, thou com'ſt, O RUTH,
He will thy Pains repay.

2.

In future Times from thee ſhall ſpring
The SON of HEAVEN's Eternal KING,
To ſit on ISRAEL's Throne.
He ſhall extend his wide Domain,
And MOAB ſhare his happy Reign,
Who makes our People one.

CHORUS.

JEHOVAH reigns! Exalt his Name on high,
And ſhout his Glory thro' the vaulted Sky.
JEHOVAH reigns! Raiſe the loud Trumpet's Sound,
'Till Heaven's high Arch with echoing Praiſe reſound.

PART II.

SCENE I.

BETHLEHEM.

Morning. BOAZ *and* REAPERS.

RECITATIVE.

BOAZ. * WELCOME, my Friends and Brethren! See the Sun
Hath left his Sea-green Bed, and lifts his Head,
* With Glories beaming round, above the Hills.
Haſte to the Harveſt-Field. * But firſt adore
* The GOD Omnipotent, moſt juſt, moſt holy;
* Who for our Sins had viſited the Land,
* And to the Famine's waſteful Rage had giv'n
* Our fruitful Fields and Vineyards: Now in Judgment
* He hath remembred Mercy, and reſtor'd
* The Smiles of Plenty. Praiſed be his Name!
* The teaming Earth from her prolific Boſom,
* Pours forth the plenteous Gifts of Providence.
* With grateful Hearts we humbly bow and bleſs
* The gracious Giver. Be our Diligence
* And Induſtry Proof of our Gratitude.

AIR.

1 REAPER. With chearful Hearts
And willing Hands,
Away to the Fields and the Harveſt Lands.

2 REAPER.

Note, Theſe Parts marked thus * are omitted to ſhorten the Performance.

2 REAPER. And the Way all along
We'll beguile with a Song;
Then ſtrike up the Tabor, and join the glad Throng.

CHORUS.

With chearful Hearts
And willing Hands,
Away to the Fields and the Harveſt Lands.

SCENE II.

NAOMI *and* RUTH.

RECITATIVE.

RUTH. The Harveſt is begun, why ſtay I here
Idle to Day? Let me, I pray thee, go,
And glean in yonder Field. If Grace I find
Before the Man, he may compaſſionate
A helpleſs Stranger, and permit my Stay
Among the Reapers. With my Boſom full
At Night I ſhall return. Thus may the Wants
Which patiently we ſuffer be relieved.

AIR.

NAOMI. Go, my RUTH, the Pattern faireſt
Of Fidelity and Love:
Juſtly valued as the deareſt
Gift beſtow'd from Heav'n above.

2.

As the Cloud my Tears ſhall vaniſh,
Thou my kind Support and Friend:
Ev'ry Care and Fear I'll baniſh,
Peace ſhall be our latter End.

RECI-

RECITATIVE.

RUTH. Glad to my Work I haſten, nor regard
The Toil. Thy Love will be my rich Reward.

SCENE III.

CORN FIELDS.

BOAZ *at Noon goes to the* REAPERS.

RECITATIVE.

BOAZ. * The LORD bleſs you!

REAPERS. * And may the LORD bleſs thee!

BOAZ. Well have ye wrought to Day. * Beneath the Scythe
* The bending Reeds along the Plain extend,
* A golden Train. * Bind up your Sheaves; your Shocks
In Order range; then reſt awhile. * The Sun,
* Now in its mid Career, his ſultry Beams
* Darts down. * Retire to yonder Shade. * You'll find
* Provided there needful Repaſt. Who reaps
* Is worthy of his Hire. * But tell me, Friend,
Whoſe Damſel yonder gleans?

OVERSEER of the REAPERS. Sire, thou haſt heard,
From MOAB's Land NAOMI is return'd,
And with her, drawn by Ties of filial Love,
A Daughter came, admir'd of all who heard
The tender Tale. This Damſel is the Daughter.
* Her Name is RUTH. At early Dawn ſhe came,
* Bow'd lowly, aſk'd Permiſſion here to glean:
* Thy gen'ral Pleaſure known, I granted it.

[REAPERS *retire.*

BOAZ *and* RUTH *remain.*

BOAZ. Welcome, my Daughter, go not hence away,
My Field is open to thee, tarry here;

Follow

Follow my Maidens, o'er the Furrows glean.
Fear not, in Charge 'tis given that the Reapers
May not moleſt thee. And when thou art thirſty,
Go to my Veſſels, draw and ſlack thy Thirſt.

AIR.

RUTH. O'erwhelm'd with the pleaſing Surpriſe,
My Boſom with Gratitude glows:
I'll bleſs the kind Hand which ſupplies
My Wants, and ſuch Favour beſtows.

2.

JEHOVAH on High ſhall repay
All ſuch as the Needy regard.
He guided me hither to Day,
And ſoon will thy Bounty reward.

RECITATIVE.

BOAZ. Ceaſe now thy Toil, and from the ſcorching Sun
Retire, beneath that beachen Canopy
Extended wide. My Reapers there enjoy
Short Reſt and ſweet Repaſt. The tufted Graſs
Affords a welcome Sofa; and around
Abundance without Luxury adorns
The verdant Table. Take my parched Corn,
And dip thy Morſel in the cooling Bowl.

BOAZ *calls aſide the* OVERSEER *of the* REAPERS.

RECITATIVE.

BOAZ. * Permit this Damſel, Friend, amidſt the Sheaves
* To glean, and as you reap a Handful drop.
* My Cup with lib'ral Bleſſings overflows,
* The Gifts he beſt improves who thus beſtows.

[*Exit* BOAZ.

SCENE IV.

REAPERS *at Dinner.*

RECITATIVE.

OVERSEER of the REAPERS. Amidſt theſe Shades, where from the ſultry Beams
Of midday Sun we reſt, and the cool Bower
Fann'd by ſoft Zephyrs yields a ſweet Retreat,
Ere yet our Labour calls us to the Field;
Let's end our rural Feaſt with Harmony:
Who moſt excels ſhall cheer us with a Song.

RECITATIVE *accompanied.*

2 REAPER. ASAPH is fam'd for Melody and Voice;
Sweetly I heard him ſing in ARNON's Vale,
Near JORDAN's rapid Stream; as on our Forks
We reſted; while the new-mown Hay breath'd Fragrance,
And feather'd Songſters warbled on the Bough:
Warbled— till by his ſoftly-ſwelling Notes
Struck dumb, they ſilent liſten'd to the Song.

AIR.

ASAPH. * Under Oppreſſion's galling Chain
* Unhappy JUDAH lay:
* And JABIN's Chiefs (as Tyrants reign)
* Mark'd their imperious Sway.
* Deſerted now the verdant Fields,
* No lowing Herds appear;
* No golden Grain the Harveſt yields,
* No Grapes the Vineyards bear.

2.

* Our Harps upon the Willows hung,
* We ſat in ſilent Grief:
* The Voice of Joy forſook our Tongue,
* And Tears were our Relief.

* JEHOVAH ſaw our ſad Diſtreſs,
* He pitied and aroſe;
* Swift to his Sons he brings Redreſs,
* Pours Vengeance on our Foes.

3.

* Riſe, BARAK riſe! At GOD's Command,
* (The Propheteſs inſpir'd
* Proclaims) and looſe thy captive Band;
* Bright Zeal his Boſom fir'd.
* Strait he aroſe. The Tyrants fly,
* Their Hoſts in wild Deſpair.
* Stars in their Courſes fought on High,
* Around the Lightnings glare.

4.

Hail Liberty! hail balmy Peace!
Our wonted Joys reſtore:
At thy Return our Sorrows ceaſe,
And JUDAH mourns no more.
See the bleſt Change! The verdant Fields
New cloth'd with Herds appear;
The golden Grain the Harveſt yields;
Rich Grapes the Vineyards bear.

CHORUS.

* Then clap your Hands, all hail!
* Sweet Liberty, all hail!
* Above the Skies our Joys ſhall riſe;
* Sweet Liberty, all hail!

SCENE V.

EVENING.

RECITATIVE.

OVERSEER. The weſtern Sun begins to hide his Head
Behind the Mountains; and the gilded Spires

Of yon bright Tow'rs reflect the dying Beams.
The Ev'ning's Dawn advances, and the Dew
Deſcending ſoft, from Labour bids deſiſt.
Let this remind us of the joyful Time
When this Life's Sun ſhall ſet, and we no more
Or Toil or Labour know; but in that Reſt,
Which waits the Faithful, be for ever bleſt.

AIR.

Soon will our fleeting Hours be paſt;
And as the ſetting Sun
Now leaves the Clouds in yonder Weſt,
Our parting Beams be gone.

RECITATIVE.

REAPER. As firſt the Blade precedes the budding Ear,
Then ſwells the Corn and the full Harveſt yields;
So may each Moment, each revolving Day,
Be ripening us for thoſe celeſtial Joys
Which round JEHOVAH's Throne the Faithful taſte.

DUET.

REAPERS. Our Care, our Joy, our happy Lot be this,
To reap the Harveſt of eternal Bliſs.

RECITATIVE.

OVERSEER. Farewel, my Friends, each to his Home retire,
And wait the Toil of the returning Day.
To that bleſt Power who ſtill renews our Strength,
All Praiſe be given for his Mercies paſt.
He reigns on High, and ever reigns to bleſs
The choſen Seed: JEHOVAH is his Name.

CHORUS.

JEHOVAH reigns ever;
His Name be prais'd ever!
Let Heaven and Earth his Power proclaim,
And all Creation ſpread his Fame.

PART III.

SCENE I.

BOAZ *alone.*

AIR.

WHEN the frail Body Tyrants bind,
Inceſſant we complain;
Love tyranniſes o'er the Mind,
The Pris'ner hugs the Chain.

RECITATIVE.

Sleep hath forſook my Eyelids. RUTH alone
Engages all my Thoughts; her beauteous Form,
Like the fair Moon ſhot from behind a Cloud,
Is ever in my View: Since Yeſterday
She lifted up her Veil and bluſhing ſpoke,
Adorn'd with ev'ry Grace, and moſt adorn'd
With Modeſty, Woman's beſt Ornament!
Some Claim in her I find as near allied,
One only ſtands between. I'll to the Gate,
And wait his coming there. If he refuſe
The Kinſman's Part, in Order next I ſtand
To claim the Wife, and to redeem the Land.

SCENE II.

GATE *of* BETHLEHEM.

BOAZ, ELDERS, RUTH's *Kinſman paſſing by.*

RECITATIVE.

BOAZ. Ho there! my Friend, come hither and attend:
CHILION is now no more. Thy Right of Blood
Before the Elders plead; ranſom the Land;
The Widow wed, and CHILION's Name preſerve.

KINSMAN. The Land I cannot ranſom, leſt I mar
My own Inheritance. Thou'rt next ally'd,
Redeem it if thou wilt, and RUTH be thine;
This Shoe ſurrenders all.

BOAZ. Bear Witneſs, ye
Elders of BETHLEHEM, and People all!
CHILION's Inheritance this Day I claim,
And hope fair RUTH will not my Suit diſdain.

AIR.

ELDER. Thy Choice may JEHOVAH approve,
And Children thy Table ſurround.
May ſhe who poſſeſſes thy Love,
Like RACHEL and LEAH be found.

CHORUS.

In the Ages to come may great BOAZ and RUTH
Be fam'd as Examples of conjugal Truth.

SCENE

SCENE III.

RUTH *alone.*

RECITATIVE *accompanied.*

Toſs'd on the Billows of tempeſtuous Thought,
Hope mounts the briny Wave; then dark Deſpair
Plunges me back into the Deep. Sad Lot
Of Womankind! with tend'reſt Paſſions form'd;
Yet doom'd in Silence to conceal their Love,
Which, like fierce Winds confin'd, rages the more.
Muſic I've heard hath magic Charms to bind
The raging Storm, and ſmooth the ruffled Sea:
Then ſoftly let harmonious Numbers flow,
And lull this troubled Breaſt to ſweet Repoſe.

AIR.

Below perpetual Change appears,
The Seaſons mark the rolling Years;
Not ever black the Welkin lours,
Nor Clouds drop down inceſſant Show'rs.

2.

Tho' Darkneſs long encompaſs round
My Paths, and ev'ry Proſpect bound;
Be BOAZ kind; this chearing Ray
Shall turn my Darkneſs into Day.

SCENE IV.

NAOMI *enters.*

RECITATIVE.

What means, my Daughter? liſtning to the Sound,
Methought I heard her ſpeak of BOAZ Kindneſs.

RUTH. His Kindneſs to me, Mother, was ſurpaſſing.
Soon as his bounteous Hand had fill'd my Veil
With Corn, ſix Meaſures full and cloſely ſhook,
I turn'd to go; he ſeem'd to wiſh my Stay:
Once call'd me back, ſaid, Daughter, go in Peace;
And look'd a Kindneſs, better felt than told.

NAOMI. None knows what may be. Rich in Lands and Herds
Is BOAZ, and to us ſo near of Kin,
That, if I judge aright, Good will ariſe
From this Day's Buſineſs. * Still let us hope.
* Myſterious are the Ways of Providence,
* Thro' winding Mazes, long bewilder'd Steps,
* Oft from the deepeſt Gloom ruſh into Day.
* Tho' here beneath a Cottage' oaten Roof
* Diſtreſt we dwell; and ſcarce, with ceaſeleſs Toil,
* Lean Poverty, with Habit patcht and torn,
* Unwelcome Gueſt! keep from the ſhatter'd Door:
* HE, in whoſe Hands are all Things, ſoon can turn
* Our long Captivity. In BOAZ give
* To thee a Huſband, and to me a Son.

AIR.

* When Winter's bleak Storms are no more,
* The Spring decks with Dew-drops the Thorn:
* When Summer's hot Sunſhine is o'er,
* Along the rich Vale waves the Corn.

* Happy Changes! Hence away
* Winter's Sorrows: Haſte the Day,
* When at laſt (the genial Sun
* Thro' its circling Courſes run)
* Rip'ning Joys ſhall bloom around,
* Hope be with Fruition crown'd.

BOAZ *enters.*

Abrupt I enter.— Pardon the Intruſion—
Faireſt of Women, RUTH, to call thee mine!
Henceforth permit thy BOAZ. At the Gate
I've claim'd the Kinſman's Part; my Claim allow'd:
Crown all my Hopes, and tell me I am happy.

AIR.

RUTH. Be happy then, we'll never part,
Faſt join'd in Wedlock's Band:
To thee before I've giv'n my Heart,
Nor can refuſe my Hand.

SCENE V.

BOAZ, RUTH, PRIEST *and* PEOPLE *celebrating the Marriage.*

RECITATIVE.

PRIEST. When from the Womb of Nature firſt aroſe
At ELOHIM's dread Command, the Viſible
Of Heav'n and Earth, together ſweetly ſung
The Morning Stars, and all the Sons of GOD
Shouted for Joy. To crown this lower World
Man firſt was form'd; and to complete the Plan,
Woman, Man's better Half, was giv'n; in one
Join'd by their Great Creator! Sacred Wedlock!
Beſt Ordinance of Heav'n, thy Reign extend,
And baniſh far unnatural Celibacy.
Be RUTH and BOAZ one!

Flouriſh of Trumpets.

DUET.

D U E T.

BOAZ and RUTH. May HE, from whom all Bleſſings flow,
These ſacred Rites attend!
Unite our Hearts, no more to part
'Till Life's ſhort Journey end.

2.

And as the rapid Sands run down,
Still may our Bliſs improve!
'Till each receives the glorious Crown
Of never-fading Love.

RECITATIVE.

PROPHET *enters.*

Hail wedded Pair! At Heaven's Command I come
With Tidings of great Joy. Of ABRAM's Race,
Ye are preferr'd. Hail, favour'd of the LORD!
Hear and receive the Dictates of his Word.

AIR.

By Sin undone, offending Man
Ruin'd his hapleſs Race.
His Life contracted to a Span,
Driv'n from his Maker's Face.

2.

A flaming Cherub wav'd the Sword,
Emblem of Wrath divine:
Left, but for one reviving Word,
In fell Deſpair to pine.

3.

Thy Seed ſhall bruiſe the Serpent's Head,
(So Mercy's Voice ordains:)
Captivity he'll captive lead,
And break Death's hateful Chains.

4.

To ABRAM, ISAAC, and his Seed,
At laſt to JUDAH's Line,
The Promiſe is anew decreed,
And now 'tis fix'd in thine.

5.

From thee the righteous BRANCH ſhall ſpring,
Whoſe Rule ſhall never end!
The GENTILES Light, his ISRAEL's King,
The helpleſs Sinner's Friend!

6.

Hail wedded Pair! His Name adore
Who crowns you with his Grace!
And the beſt Gift reſerves in ſtore,
In Heav'n to ſee his Face.

CHORUS.

Then ſwift roll the Sun till this Day-Star ariſe,
And Peace, Truth and Mercy look down from the Skies.
Blow the Trump, ſtrike the Cymbals, exalt his Great Name;
JEHOVAH! to Day and for ever the ſame.

HALLELUJAH, *Amen.*

FINIS.

R U T H.